

GRAVIS feedback

NGO from India

Affiliate of Help Age International

Equality and non-discrimination

1. India has a new Act called "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" is a legislation enacted in 2007, initiated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India., to provide more effective provision for maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. This Act makes it a legal obligation for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents, by monthly allowance. However, the Act is new and is slowly coming in full implementation.
2. There is no regular and consistent set of reports or data-bases in the country that look at discrimination against older people on employment, healthcare, social care, autonomy and decision making. However, various small reports and studies suggest that the discrimination levels are very high. India also has a very large population of youth, which comes as an excuse for not attending older people's needs.
3. India also has a mandatory age based retirement system both in the Government jobs and in the private sectors. There are age based constraints on health insurance plans.
4. Old age pension is given in India but it is a very small amount. The Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme covers people above 60 years who are Below the Poverty Line (BPL). Monthly amount is about INT 300 or \$ 5.
5. Some other benefits are given to older people including travel concessions, free medicines in some cases and tax benefits.
6. The discrimination levels are higher for older women because of socio-cultural norms and family structures.
7. The situation is equally challenging in both rural and urban areas. Intergenerational linkages are getting weaker in a society where they use to be very strong in the past.
8. Overall, India has a serious issue of discrimination against older people with very little documentation and poor implementation of existing policies and laws.

Neglect, abuse and non-violence

1. As stated above, in India there are not much regular and consistent reports or data bases that records cases of abuse and violence against older people.
2. The problem of abuse and violence against older people is significantly large. Often times, these incidents are domestic and hidden within the homes with not much reporting.
3. As mentioned above, the 2007 Act deals with abuse and violence also. But it is new and is taking time to be fully existent.

4. Financial abuse against older people is common too as they don't have any direct incomes and hence are deprived of money for healthcare and leisure etc.
5. Healthcare services (mostly) neglect older people's special needs mainly at the primary care level.

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